

WEATHER FORECAST.

Cloudy to-day and to-morrow; moderate temperature; west winds.
Highest temperature yesterday, 33; lowest, 23.
Detailed weather reports on last page.

VOL. LXXXV.—NO. 110.

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1917.—Copyright, 1917, by the Sun Printing and Publishing Association.

ONE CENT In Greater New York

Elsewhere
TWO CENTS

WET STATES LINE UP FOR AMENDMENT

Pennsylvania Brewers to
Spend Millions to De-
feat Reform.

NEW YORK TO STAY WET

Massachusetts Not Expected
to Ratify When Matter
Comes to First Vote.

Heretofore are presented special tele-
graphic reports from States which are
grappling with the liquor question.
This week yesterday the State of
Massachusetts made an effort to get some idea
of the attitude of these States concerning
the possible ratification of the amend-
ment to the prohibition law passed by
Congress. The despatcher told the story
as far as it is possible to do so at the
present time.

CALIFORNIA.

Special Despatch to The Sun.
SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 18.—Straight
prohibition was defeated in California
by 106,000 votes in 1916. A bill to close
saloons and prohibit the sale of whiskey
and other hard liquors but to exempt
beer, wine and malt liquor from the
legislation next year. It is believed
that the Congressional amendment
to the Constitution is certain to be
defeated unless present sentiment
changes.

CONNECTICUT.

Special Despatch to The Sun.
HARTFORD, Conn., Dec. 18.—Whether
or not the Legislature, which convenes
in January, 1919, will ratify the prob-
hibition amendment could not be learned
yesterday. Gov. Holcomb and other State
officials declined to express an opinion.

DELAWARE.

Special Despatch to The Sun.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Indica-
tions here are that the prohibition
amendment will be ratified by a vote
of 100 to 100 in the Delaware Legisla-
ture. This is the only "wet" city in
Delaware, but it is believed the entire
State will vote against the amend-
ment. The Legislature will not
meet until January, 1919, but a
special session could be called at any
time.

ILLINOIS.

Special Despatch to The Sun.
CHICAGO, Dec. 18.—Approval of
Congress of the dry amendment to the
Federal Constitution awakened political
parties and factions in Illinois to the
fact that they must meet the issue
of prohibition. The State of Illinois
is strongly against the saloon.
Chicago's dry election in the spring
will attract national attention. "As
Chicago is so well known as a dry city,"
said the morning news to liquor men all
over the United States. The moral ef-
fect of the second city in the country
electing a dry mayor would be to
show the campaign managers admit-
ting that the reason, one leader said,
the dry city is "heaven and earth" to
be won.

KENTUCKY.

Special Despatch to The Sun.
LOUISVILLE, Ky., Dec. 18.—Kentucky
will be the first State in the Union
to vote on the new national prohibition
amendment. The General Assembly meets
in January and the bill will be
brought to a vote. The bill is expected
to be passed, submitting the
question of statewide prohibition to the
people. Practically every man who was
elected to the Legislature from rural
districts received a vote because he
belonged to the State Constitution.

MARYLAND.

Special Despatch to The Sun.
BALTIMORE, Dec. 18.—George W.
Crane, superintendent of the Maryland
Antisaloon League, announced to-
night that the prohibition amendment
would be pressed for approval by the
Legislature at Annapolis in January.
He expressed the opinion that it would
receive a majority vote. Twenty-three
counties already are in the "dry" column.
The whole liquor dealers, brewers
and saloonkeepers say they have been hit
by the prohibition amendment and
are fighting legislation that they cannot
beat by any harder.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Special Despatch to The Sun.
BOSTON, Dec. 18.—Robert W. Woods,
former member of the House, is the
leading candidate of Boston whom
Gov. Michael Deane in the first year

Hoover Approves Old Time Christmas Dinner

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—The
"old fashioned" Christmas
dinner was enjoyed to-night by
the Food Administration.
"Turkey, goose and vegetables,
on which Americans dine at
Christmas according to ancient
custom," said the statement, "are
the very things the Food Admin-
istration wants them to eat, as
they conserve wheat, red meats,
fats and other needed war foods.
"Fittingly enough, this Christ-
mas falls on meatless Tuesday,
the day on which no red meats
are to be eaten.
"Serving the old time Christ-
mas dinner on that day could not
be more appropriate. No red
meat, of course, should be used
in mince pies."

SENATE ORDERS RAIL INQUIRY

Action Is to Hasten Legisla-
tion That President
May Advocate.

CUMMINS FORCES STEP

Wilson's Power to Take Over
Roads Under Old Act Is
Questioned.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—In the ex-
pectation that immediately after the holiday
the President will lay his railroad
plan before Congress, the Senate, on the
motion of Senator Cummins of Iowa, to-
day ordered an investigation into the
general railroad situation and its bear-
ing on the war with a view of expediting
the passage of any legislation that may
be required after the President has ad-
dressed Congress on the subject.
It is not doubted that the President
will act in the meantime. Although
several of his advisers have assured him
that he could go ahead and appoint a
railroad administrator under the act of
August 28, 1916, some of the ablest con-
stitutional lawyers in the Senate, it was
learned to-day, questioned the right of
the President under this law to take
entire control of the railroad traffic, hold-
ing that it applies only to troops and
war materiel.

Object Is Speedy Action.

The Senate Interstate Commerce Com-
mittee will summon at once members of
the Interstate Commerce Commission
and of the Railroad War Board and set
their views on what ought to be done.
Senator Cummins said that the main ob-
ject was to be prepared to act speedily.
The principal point involved, he said,
concerned the financing to be done. He
added:
"If I intend to make these lines of
transportation sufficient to meet the
extraordinary emergency we must do
something to unite the various rail-
road managers who are now at logger-
heads. The various railroad managers
will not feel under obligation to the
stock and bond holders so far as the
management and operation of particular
lines are concerned."
It became apparent to-day that if the
railroad matter is thrown into Congress
by the President a fight is to ensue be-
tween radicals and conservatives over
the guarantee feature. Senator Cum-
mins, who is the ranking Republican
member of the Interstate Commerce
Committee, announced that he was op-
posed to the plan.
"It would not be fair, in my opinion,"
he said, "to guarantee the earnings on
the basis of 1916, which was an abnor-
mal year, and such a plan would be
to guarantee the future of the rail-
road industry on the basis of a guar-
antee of the value of the railroads."
For a Federal Corporation.
A bill introduced to-day by Representa-
tive Linn of Wisconsin would create
a Federal corporation to acquire rail-
road equipment and lease it to the
roads. The bill would increase the
capital of the corporation to \$100,000,000.
The corporation would be modeled after
the Panama railway and ship canal
company, which is owned by the govern-
ment. The bill would give the govern-
ment the right to acquire the stock, build-
ing and leasing cars and locomotives to
the railroads. All the corporation's di-
rectors would be appointed by the
Senate. The bill would give the Sec-
retary of the Treasury, its general man-
ager, would be a practical railroad man.

Wherever the net income of a rail-
road exceeds 7 per cent. on its invested
capital the corporation would take 70
per cent. of the excess for the purpose
of purchasing equipment for the
United States.

Senator Sterling of South Dakota in-
troduced a resolution for appointment
by the President of a general freight
traffic director to coordinate transpor-
tation facilities. The resolution was re-
ferred to committee without action.

HUMAN SIDE OF ROADS.

Cardinal Gibbons Opposes Public
Ownership.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 18.—In an interview
in the *Catholic Review* discussing "The
Human Side of the Railroad Problem,"
the Cardinal said he decided to stand
against public ownership of railroads.
The Cardinal also directs attention to
the tendency of labor organizations to
interfere with the railroads, which he
characterizes as ill advised. Cardinal
Gibbons said:
"I find the efficiency of the American
railways much above that of the European
transportation system. The Government
owned railways abroad cannot be com-
pared with the privately owned lines in
this country in service or in the
charges for service.
"I think it would be a mistake to con-
sider public ownership of American rail-
ways, as such an ownership would be
to be handled by the Government
agencies would build up a central
power that would use the employees for
political purposes and would bring about
corruption of the worst character."

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BACCO FUND HAS NO CONNECTION
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ZATION OR PUBLICATION. IT EMPLOYS
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2 SET FIRE TO OHIO HOME OF ROCKEFELLER

Discharged Employees Are
Sought After Empty Oil
Cans Are Found.

HAD VISITED ESTATE

Detected on Grounds Two
Hours Before Blaze Was
Discovered.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

CLEVELAND, Dec. 18.—Developments
that unfolded rapidly under the scrutiny
of the Ohio Fire Marshal's Department
caused Tom Doreen, chief inspector for
the State, to announce to-night the fol-
lowing conclusions:
The finding of two empty five gal-
lon oil cans near the ruins of Forest
Hill, the once palatial summer home
of John D. Rockefeller, established
that the fire which destroyed the struc-
ture early this morning was of incendi-
ary origin.

The arrest of two discharged em-
ployees of the estate will be made to-
morrow if they can be found.

"Evidence disclosed in the investiga-
tion has convinced me that the fire was
started by two former employees who
were discharged because they were dis-
charged from the estate," said Doreen.

On Premises Before Fire.

"My inspectors have been able to es-
tablish that the two men were not at
their homes shortly before the flames
were discovered. On the contrary, evi-
dence has been obtained that these men
were actually on the premises two hours
before the fire started. The men live in
"Little Italy," an Italian district on the
East Side.
The men were discharged after an ar-
rangement with the ground foreman.
The controversy involved their work and
the amount of wages due.

Doreen asserted that the former em-
ployees have been on the Rockefeller
grounds several times since being dis-
charged. Representatives of the Fire
Marshal's office believe these visits were
made by the men to familiarize them-
selves with the surroundings.

Tracks found in the snow and the soft
ground indicated the inspectors that
two men had set fire to the structure
and then had run away.

In the absence of word to-day from
Mr. Rockefeller, the fire loss is estimated
at \$100,000. Employees of Mr. Rocke-
feller related reminiscences to-day to
show that Forest Hill was his favorite
home. It was there, they pointed out,
he kept the Christmas presents that
were acquired years ago in the early
married life of the Rockefellers.

Forest Hill was the treasure house for
the toys and playthings the children com-
piled with years ago when the Rockefeller
fortune was being acquired. Daguerre-
types and keepsakes that had been in the
possession of the family since the child-
hood of Mr. Rockefeller were in the de-
stroyed building.

Chests, furniture and antiques that
were stored there by Mrs. Rockefeller
were consigned by the auctioneer to
Representatives from the tax practically
every member of the House is "in bad"
with his constituents at home and Mr.
Kitchin is held responsible for any mean-
ingless fight to repeal the "tax on
brains" by which earned incomes above
\$4,000 are subject to an additional
tax of 8 per cent. while unearned in-
comes escape this burden. He will re-
peat the fight in the Ways and Means
Committee after the recess and try to
obtain a favorable report for the pur-
pose of a bill drawn for that purpose.

Mr. Longworth paid his respects to
the Representatives who were so eager
to place the additional tax on their
salaries and adjust the inequality in
that way rather than repeal the tax on
brains and industry.

"Fear for Political Skins."

"I wish I could believe that our
motives—the motives of all of us—in
adopting such a resolution as this were
high and heroic. We are all too human
and too much concerned for our political
skins. The force that impels us to com-
mit this atrocity is a fear for our polit-
ical skins, endangered, as some of us
believe, by the criticisms that have been
heaped upon Congress for passing such
a law."

"While I would oppose this resolution
on its merits to the last ditch, however,
I realize that the public sentiment is
approaching and that we are about to
adjust for the Christmas holidays, and
I see many of my most cherished friends
heaped upon the altar of the tax. I
therefore support the resolution, and I
swallow it with as good grace as I can."

400 SOLDIERS IN FIRE PERIL.

All Reported to Have Escaped
Blazing K. of G. Hall.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Dec. 18.—Fire broke
out early this morning in the Knights
of Columbus Hall, State and Sixth
streets, in which 400 soldiers were quar-
tered.

All the soldiers, it is believed, escaped.

BUTTER AT \$587 A POUND.

President Receives Some for
Christmas Dinner.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—President Wil-
son received to-day a pound of butter
for his Christmas dinner with the
Christmas dinner which cost \$587.

It was made by Mrs. C. E. Easter-
day of Marble Rock, Ia., and an-
nounced to the President by the
Secretary of the United States and
Secretary of the United States.

Thanksgiving Smokes
Make Soldiers Happy

"YOUR gift of cigarettes came
as a very pleasing mes-
sage at the close of our Thank-
sgiving dinner," writes J. Eugene
Hart of Base Hospital No. 15 to a
Sun Tobacco Fund contributor.

"Am burning them up while
munching turkey and pie," says
Private George M. Shellhase.
Their postcards and others are
printed on page 5.

The information contained in
these notes gives an inkling of
the soldiers who will enjoy on
Christmas day, thanks to the
fund's friends who contributed
so generously toward the holiday
package giving. Right now is the
time to remember that pro-
vision is necessary to keep the
soldiers happy and contented—
as happy and contented as it is
possible for them to be—even
after this gay season has passed.

One way to help a little bit
is by attending the entertainment
at the Consolidated Stock Ex-
change, Friday afternoon. There
will be no admission fee, but the
business men who will be hosts
expect everybody to contribute
to the fund in exchange for the
excellent bill to be offered.

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Suffragists Win on a Test Vote

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—On
a test vote to-day, indicat-
ing sentiment in the House to-
ward the woman suffrage con-
stitutional amendment, the ad-
vocates polled seven more than
a two-thirds vote. The question
was on referring suffrage resolu-
tion to the new woman suffrage
committee as the suffragists
wished, instead of the elections
committee as the anti-suffragists
asked.
Vote in the House on the
amendment on Thursday, Janu-
ary 10, was assured to-day
when the Rules Committee agreed
on that date.

HOUSE TAXES CONGRESSMEN

President and Judiciary Also
Made Subject to Excess
Profit Levy.

LONGWORTH'S FIGHT VAIN

His Effort to Exempt All
Salaried Men Defeated
by 98 to 56.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—The House
voted to-day by 308 to 1 to have the po-
litical skins of its members and repealed
the exemptions of Representatives and
Senators' salaries from the excess profits
tax of 8 per cent. on all of it in ex-
cess of \$4,000 a year. Through an amend-
ment offered by Representative William
of South Dakota the President and the
Judges of all of the courts of the coun-
try likewise will be subjected to the tax.
Representative Platt of New York also
voted against the repeal of the exemp-
tion.

Representative Longworth of Ohio
made a hard fight for his proposal of
making the tax ineffective for salaried
men and men in business with no capi-
tal or only nominal capital. This amend-
ment was lost on a vote of 98 to 56. Mr.
Kitchin lobbied on the floor against the
Longworth amendment. "Stand up, boys,"
the Secretary of the Treasury needs
the money," he shouted when the vote
was taken.

The Dilan amendment placing the tax
on the President, Justices of the Su-
preme Court of the United States and
all others holding judicial positions
where the emolument reaches higher
than \$6,000 annually was then adopted
on a vote of 98 to 56. This will force
President Wilson to pay an additional
tax of \$520.

Kitchin Defends Himself.

During the debate Mr. Kitchin, field
representative for the tax by most of the
Representatives, made a short speech
defending himself from the charges
which have been made against him.
He failed to arouse much sympathy or en-
thusiasm for the tax by the ex-
ception of the House is "in bad"
with his constituents at home and Mr.
Kitchin is held responsible for any mean-
ingless fight to repeal the "tax on
brains" by which earned incomes above
\$4,000 are subject to an additional
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SENATE VOTES TO PROBE U. S. SHIPPING BOARD

Commerce Committee Will
Seek Cause of Squabbles
and Delays.

ACTION IS NON-PARTISAN

Daniels, Resentful, Refuses
Admiral Harris His Old Post
as Bureau Head.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Affairs of the
United States Shipping Board have
reached still another crisis.
The resignation of Admiral Frederic
R. Harris, appointed only two weeks
ago, as general manager of the Emer-
gency Fleet Corporation brought official
Washington face to face to-day with
the fact that this important branch of
the war board is apparently as much
in need as ever of a policy that will
abolish friction and bring results.

The long series of resignations has
brought conviction to many that some
basic fault, possibly in the law itself, is
at the bottom of the board's misfortunes.
To-day this crystallized in a decision
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